

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a multipath device driver configured to execute on the processor and to manage a
4 plurality of physical connections to a peripheral device, the multipath device driver
5 providing a logical connection interface configured to provide client access to the
6 peripheral device over at least one of the plurality of physical connections.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein multipath device driver includes a device driver for
2 each of the plurality of physical connections, and coupled to the multipath device driver.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver is configured to manage
2 a list including the plurality of physical connections.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the multipath device driver is further configured to
2 manage a second list including information pertaining to active connections of the
3 plurality of physical connections.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the second list includes information pertaining to a
2 status of each of the plurality of connections.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates determining an
2 alternative connection in response to a failed connection.
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the multipath device driver determines the
2 alternative connection by accessing a list of alternative connections.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates deleting
2 connection data from the peripheral device.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates deleting the
2 connection data by communicating with the peripheral device over another of the
3 plurality of connections.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates writing
2 connection data to the peripheral device.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates associating a
2 first device driver with a second device driver.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates searching a
2 list for an identifier indicative of the peripheral device to determine a primary connection.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates placing a lock
2 on a device driver to prevent another device driver from searching a list.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver initiates designating a
2 connection as a primary connection.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multipath device driver is created by a primary
2 device driver.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the primary device driver creates the multipath
2 device driver in response to detecting a new connection associated with the peripheral
3 device.

1 17. An apparatus comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a device driver executing on the processor and configured to manage a plurality of
4 physical connections to a peripheral device, the device driver providing a logical
5 connection interface configured to create a list including data associated with at least one
6 active connection of a plurality of connections connecting a computer to the peripheral
7 device, and to use the list to automatically route communications from the computer to
8 the peripheral device.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the device driver is configured to use the list to
2 route the communications to a second connection on the list in the event that a first
3 connection fails.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the device driver is configured to remove the data
2 associated with the at least one active connection from the list in response to the at least
3 one active connection failing.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the device driver is configured to create a second
2 list including information pertaining to all of the plurality of connections.

- 1 21. An apparatus comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a multipath device driver executing on the processor and configured to manage a
4 plurality of physical connections to a peripheral device, the multipath device driver
5 providing a logical connection interface configured to receive input associated with
6 removing from memory of the peripheral device information pertaining to an undesired
7 connection of the plurality of connections connecting a computer to the peripheral device,
8 and to remove the information from the peripheral device.
- 1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the multipath device driver is further configured
2 to determine an alternative connection in communication with the peripheral device.
- 1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the multipath device driver is further configured
2 to remove the information from the peripheral device using the alternative connection in
3 communication with the peripheral device.

1 24. A method for managing a plurality of physical connections from a computer to a
2 peripheral device, the method comprising:
3 creating a multipath device driver comprising a logical connection to a peripheral
4 device coupled to a computer over a plurality of physical connections; and
5 accessing the peripheral device using the multipath device driver.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising adding a new device driver associated
2 with the multipath device driver in response to detecting a new connection between the
3 peripheral device and the computer.

1 26. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the peripheral device using the multipath
2 device driver further includes accessing a memory.

1 27. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the peripheral device using the multipath
2 device driver further includes determining an alternative connection to the peripheral
3 device in response to detecting a failed connection.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, determining an alternative connection to the peripheral
2 device in response to detecting a failed connection further includes accessing a list of
3 active connections.

1 29. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the peripheral device over the multipath
2 device driver further includes deleting connection data from the peripheral device.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein deleting connection data from the peripheral device
2 further includes communicating with the peripheral device over another of the plurality of
3 connections.

1 31. The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the peripheral device over the multipath
2 device driver further includes writing connection data to the peripheral device.

1 32. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes associating a new device driver with a primary device driver, wherein the
3 primary device driver is associated with the multipath device driver.

1 33. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes updating a list including active connections to the peripheral device.

1 34. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes updating a list including status information pertaining to the plurality of
3 connections.

1 35. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes searching a list for an identifier associated with the peripheral device.

1 36. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes placing a lock on an object to prevent the object from searching a list.

1 37. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes reading identification data from the peripheral device to confirm an identity of a
3 connection.

1 38. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes creating a multipath driver in response to detecting a new connection associated
3 with a different peripheral device.

1 39. The method of claim 24, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes creating the multipath device driver using a primary device driver.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes creating the multipath device driver in response to detecting a new connection
3 associated the peripheral device.

1 41. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein creating the multipath device driver further
2 includes using a new device driver associated with a new connection to prompt a primary
3 device driver to create the multipath device driver, wherein the multipath device is
4 associated with both the primary and new device drivers.

1 42. A method for managing a plurality of physical connections from a computer to a
2 peripheral device, the method comprising:
3 creating a list including data associated with at least one active connection of a
4 plurality of connections connecting a computer to a peripheral device; and
5 using the list to automatically route communications from the computer to the
6 peripheral device.

1 43. The method of claim 42, wherein using the list further includes using the list to route
2 the communications to a second connection in the event that the at least one active
3 connection fails.

1 44. The method of claim 42, further comprising removing the data associated with the at
2 least one active connection in response to the at least one active connection failing.

1 45. The method of claim 42, further comprising creating a list including information
2 pertaining to all of the plurality of connections.

1 46. A method for managing a plurality of physical connections from a computer to a
2 peripheral device, the method comprising:
3 receiving input associated with removing from memory of a peripheral device
4 information pertaining to an undesired connection of a plurality of connections
5 connecting a computer to the peripheral device; and
6 removing the information from the peripheral device.

1 47. The method of claim 46, wherein removing the information further includes
2 determining an alternative connection in communication with the peripheral device.

1 48. The method of claim 47, wherein removing the information further includes using the
2 alternative connection in communication with the peripheral device to remove the
3 information from the peripheral device.

1 49. A program product, comprising:
2 program code including a device driver configured to manage a plurality of
3 physical connections to a peripheral device, the device driver providing a logical
4 connection interface configured to provide client access to the peripheral device over at
5 least one of the plurality of physical connections; and
6 a signal bearing medium bearing the program code.

1 50. The program product of claim 49, wherein the signal bearing medium includes at
2 least one of a recordable medium and a transmission-type medium.